

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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S E C R E T STATE 145105

EXDIS FOR AMB MARTIN, CCD DEL

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PARM, PFOR, UR, CCD

SUBJECT:BREZHNEV STATEMENT ON NEW WEAPON BAN: CONTINGENCY
GUIDANCE

REF: MOSCOW 8434 AND 8488

1. SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV,
DURING COURSE OF JUNE 13 MOSCOW SPEECH, CALLED FOR MULTI-
LATERAL AGREEMENT ESPECIALLY AMONG "BIG POWERS" BANNING NEW
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. BREZHNEV MENTIONED POSSIBILITY
OF EMERGENCE OF WEAPONS"EVEN MORE TERRIBLE THAN NUCLEAR."

FYI. BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT IS SIMILAR TO SOVIET PROPOSAL IN
OCTOBER 1973 SALT DRAFT TREATY CALLING FOR LIMITATION OR

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PROHIBITION OF NEW STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS NOT COVERED BY

SALT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THOSE BASED ON OTHER PHYSICAL PRINCIPLES. THIS PROPOSAL WAS, HOWEVER, DROPPED WITHOUT EXPLANATION FROM LATEST SOVIET SALT DRAFT TABLED IN FEBRUARY 1975. BREZHNEV STATEMENT MIGHT ALSO REFER TO ENMOD-RELATED ACTIVITIES. END FYI.

2. IF ASKED BY SOVIET DEL FOR REACTION TO BREZHNEV PROPOSAL ON PRIVATE BASIS, YOU MAY REPLY THAT EXACT CONTENT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPOSAL IS NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR TO US AND THAT ANY FURTHER INFORMATION FROM SOVIET DEL WOULD BE HELPFUL.

YOU MAY ALSO INDICATE THAT SOVIET PROPOSAL WILL RECEIVE CAREFUL STUDY IN WASHINGTON.

3. IF QUERIED BY ALLIED DELS ON SIGNIFICANCE OF BREZHNEV STATEMENT, YOU MAY ADD THAT SURFACING OF PROPOSAL IN PUBLIC SPEECH SUGGESTS THAT SOVIETS' DOMINANT MOTIVES MAY BE TO IMPROVE ATMOSPHERICS AT TIME OF SENSITIVITY IN WEST WITH REGARD TO DETENTE AND TO MAINTAIN IMAGE OF SOVIET INITIATIVE IN DISARMAMENT FIELD. KISSINGER

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